



Gina Bergskaug
2011 Presidential Award for Excellence in
Mathematics and Science Teaching
Recipient

Gina Bergskaug has taught chemistry at Weston High School (Weston, MA) for the past year. She spent the previous six years teaching all levels of chemistry at Hollis Brookline High School (Hollis, NH) and the first seven years of her career teaching chemistry in Massachusetts.

Gina's passion for the advancement of science education goes beyond the classroom. She began the Advanced Placement (AP) Science Symposium, where all AP science students participated in authentic research and presented their findings to the public. She started the AP Chemistry course at Hollis Brookline High School. She started the Science Olympiad for the State of New Hampshire and works as the co-director. Her students have competed in national chemistry competitions in which they placed among the top students. Gina serves as a nationwide, online mentor for new science and mathematics teachers, hoping to inspire others to become passionate about the profession.

The activity Gina featured in her PAEMST video was an inquiry-based approach to understanding reversible chemical reactions. The activity activated prior student learning and added new steps to create a more in depth understanding of advanced systems. By the end of the lesson, students were able to accurately describe a system's response to a variety of stresses to its equilibrium. During the video, student misconceptions were voiced, discussed, and remedied appropriately by their peers. The group of students in the video was the entire class of first period Honors Chemistry students at Hollis Brookline High School.

Gina is a member of the New England Association of Chemistry Teachers (NEACT). In 2007, Gina was inducted into the Aula Laudis Society (the NEACT "Hall of Fame" for chemistry teachers). She was a member of the New Hampshire Science Teachers Association (NHSTA) and has presented twice at the NHSTA Fall Conference. She has consistently played a role in assisting with student government as either class advisor or student council advisor. In addition, she has served on the principal's faculty council for many years. She has facilitated curriculum courses locally for the University of San Diego.

Gina has a B.A. in chemistry and secondary education from Boston College, a M.Ed. in secondary science teaching from Boston College, and a C.A.G.S. in Educational Leadership from the University of New England.